



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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White House Announces Nominee for District of Hawaii Judgeship

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama has nominated federal Magistrate Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi to serve as a district judge on the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii. The White House announced the nomination on April 21.

Judge Kobayashi, 52, who has chambers in Honolulu, was nominated to fill a judgeship vacant since June 30, 2009, when District Judge Helen W. Gillmor took senior status.

Judge Kobayashi has served as a magistrate judge for the District of Hawaii since Aug. 2, 1999. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice as an associate then partner and managing partner at the law firm of Fujiyama, Duffy and Fujiyama from 1984 to 1999. She served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu from 1983 to 1984.

Judge Kobayashi received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College in 1979 and her law degree from the Boston College School of Law in 1983.

Judge Kobayashi serves on the Ninth Circuit's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and on the Judicial Conference Executive Committee. She served as vice-chair of the circuit's Magistrate Judges Executive Board from 2006 to 2008.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii had 1,024 case filings in 2009. The court is authorized 3 permanent and 1 temporary judgeships, and currently has one vacancy.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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